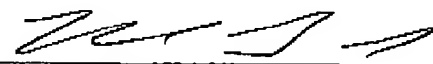


PATENT

MS306455.1 / MSFTP519US

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being faxed to 703-872-9306 on the date shown below to Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Applicant(s): Douglas R. Beck, *et al.*

Examiner: Unknown

Serial No: 10/693,072

Art Unit: 2157

Filing Date: October 24, 2003

Title: SCALABLE SYNCHRONOUS AND ASYNCHRONOUS PROCESSING  
OF MONITORING RULES

Mail Stop: Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Dear Sir:

Entry of this preliminary amendment is respectfully requested prior to performing substantive examination of the above-identified patent application.